(d) The number of persons allotted LPG connections in Muzaffarnagar District as on 01.10.1996 is about 70623.

(e) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country including Muzaffarnagar, UP State depending upon the availability of LPG, new customer enrolment plan, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability. LPG is not an allocated product and no advance allocation is made. All the people in the waiting list in the country will be provided with LPG connections in the next four/ five years.

[English]

Power Generation

104. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all existing power generation units are most cost effective and feasible solution to narrow the gap between demand and supply of power as a new power stations involves problems of resources crunch;

(b) if so, whether it is estimated that in Eighth Five Year Plan there shall be a capacity addition to the tune of 17,000 MW only against the pruned down target of 30,538 MW;

(c) whether according to the Power Finance Corporation Ltd. the power units are 25 years old and require immediate attention for extension and refurbishment work;

(d) whether the National Committee constituted in 1987 had already identified 52 hydro power stations which required renovation and upgradation;

(e) whether Government have not so far implemented this committee's recommendations; and

(f) If so, the main reasons therefor and the time by which these power units are likely to be renovated and upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Addition in power generation through improvements in productivity of existing power stations is a relatively cheaper option as compared to setting up of a new power station to produce additional power.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Power Finance Corporation has identified several projects for assistance for renovation and modernisation.

(d) and (e). CEA has identified 55 hydro power stations for coverage under renovation, modernisation and uprating. Out of 55 schemes, 36 schemes have already been approved by CEA and are under various stages of implementation.

(f) The time by which these schemes can be completed would depend on the State Governments tying up necessary finances and implementing the schemes.

Infrastructural Development

105. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved a centrally sponsored scheme for developing Infrastructural facilities of capital nature for the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the share of Centre therein and the budgetary provisions made therefor;

(c) the funds allocated and actually released during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the efforts being made for early completion of court building and residential accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

State Power Projects

106. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has announced that power projects upto Rs.1000 crores need not required clearance from the Central Government;

(b) whether such a move by the Union Government has created problem for environmentalists;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to review its decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Government of India has decided in September, 1996 that generation power projects set up by generating companies selected through competitive bidding and costing up to Rs.1000